

Biography

Bruce Nauman was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1941. He majored in sciences from 1960–1964 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, before graduating in art at the University of California in 1966.

Nauman had his first solo exhibition in 1966 at the Nicholas Wilder Gallery in Los Angeles. In 1968, he began working with the Castelli Gallery (since 1976 also Sperone Westwater) in New York and with Konrad Fischer in Düsseldorf.

His first touring exhibition, in 1972, went from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum to Houston, San Francisco, Bern, Düsseldorf, Eindhoven and Milan. In 1981, there were retrospective exhibitions of his work at the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, and the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, followed in 1982 by shows at the Kunsthalle Basel (subsequently the Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris, and Whitechapel Art Gallery, London), at the Museo nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid in 1993 (subsequently Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, LA MoCA, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., Museum of Modern Art, New York, Kunsthau Zürich), and in 2018 at Schaulager, Basel and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. In 1982, his neon pieces were shown at the Baltimore Museum of Art and in 1986, his drawings were shown at Kunstmuseum Basel, while his prints were touring the US in 1989. In 2009, Nauman represented the United States of America at the 53rd Venice Biennale.

Nauman took part in a number of group exhibitions, including Eccentric Abstraction at the Fischbach Gallery, New York, in 1966, Anti-Illusion: Procedures/Materials at the Whitney Museum, New York, in 1969, as well as When Attitudes Become Form at Kunsthalle Bern in the same year, Sonsbeek 71 in Arnhem in 1971, and the 1987 Skulptur Projekte in Münster. He was also a participant at the Documenta in Kassel in 1968, 1972, 1977, 1982 and 1992.

Nauman's texts and interviews were published by MIT Press in 2003.

Since 1989, Nauman has been living in Galisteo, New Mexico.